

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tree-structured document transmitting and receiving system having a tree-structured document transmitting apparatus and a tree-structured document receiving apparatus, said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus having:

tree-structured document storage means of storing a plurality of tree-structured documents;

node priority presentation means of presenting a node priority which is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node, and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree;

node stream generation means of reading out a tree-structured document to be transmitted from the tree-structured document storage means and generating a node stream in which at least one of nodes or subtrees are

arranged in a sequence on the basis of node priorities presented by said node priority presentation means; and

transmitting means of converting said node stream into a signal based on a predetermined network protocol and transmitting the signal, said tree-structured document receiving apparatus having:

receiving means of restoring the node stream from the signal received by said predetermined network protocol from said transmitting means;

extraction means of extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees from the node stream restored by said receiving means according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

reconstruction means of adding at least one of the nodes or the subtrees in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction; and

display means of displaying the tree-structured document in the current reconstructed state;

wherein said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus further has:

descendant substitute display information storage means of storing descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means of said tree-structured document receiving apparatus for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

descendent substitute display information addition means of making the node stream generation means generate as said node stream a stream in

which the descendant substitute display information read out from said descendant substitute display information storage means is added immediately after at least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

wherein, in said tree-structured document receiving apparatus, said extraction means extracts at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream restored by said receiving means according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction means adds a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when said extraction means extracts the descendant substitute display information; and

wherein said display means displays said descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority presentation means presents a node priority which is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving system according to Claim 1, wherein, in said tree-structured document receiving apparatus, said reconstruction means immediately

replaces the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when said extraction means extracts the descendant node while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.

4. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving system according to Claim 1, wherein said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus further has node priority setting means of determining the importance of an information portion to be presented from each node to the receiving-side user on the basis of a content of the node, an attribute of the node, a content of the document, and attribute of the document, the tree structure, a user instruction from a transmitting-side user, or a user instruction from the receiving-side user, and setting a node priority on the basis of the determination, and

wherein, in said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus, said node priority presentation means presents the node priority set by said node priority setting means.

5. (currently amended) A tree-structured document transmitting and receiving system having a tree-structured document transmitting apparatus and a tree-structured document receiving apparatus, said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus having:

tree-structured document storage means of storing a plurality of tree-structured documents;

a plurality of documents-by-document encoding means each assigned processing of one tree-structured document in a plurality of tree-structured documents to be transmitted, and each having node priority presentation means and node stream generation means, said node priority presentation means presenting a node priority which is set with respect to each of nodes of said assigned tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node, and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree, said node stream generation means reading out a tree-structured document to be transmitted from the tree-structured document storage means and generating a node stream in which at least one of the nodes or the subtrees are arranged in a sequence on the basis of node priority presented by said node priority presentation means;

inter-document priority presentation means of presenting inter-document priorities set as transmission priorities with respect to the plurality of tree-structured documents to be transmitted;

multiplexed stream generation means of generating one multiplexed stream by multiplexing the node streams from said document-by-document encoding means, sequences in which at least one of the nodes or the subtrees of the tree-structured documents are arranged being placed in the multiplexed stream according to the inter-document priorities presented by said inter-document priority presentation means with respect

to the tree-structured documents containing at least one of the nodes or the subtrees; and

transmitting means of transmitting said multiplexed stream by converting said multiplexed stream on the basis of a predetermined network protocol, said tree-structured document receiving apparatus having:

receiving means of restoring the multiplexed stream from the signal received by said predetermined network protocol from said transmitting means;

demultiplexing means of demultiplexing the multiplexed stream into the plurality of node streams contained in the multiplexed stream;

a plurality of document-by-document decoding means each assigned processing of one node stream in the plurality of node streams demultiplexed by said demultiplexing means, and each including extraction means and reconstruction means, said extraction means extracting the nodes or subtrees from said processing-assigned node stream according to the sequence of arrangement in the nodes stream, said reconstruction means adding at least one of the node or the subtree in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction;

display means of displaying the tree-structured document under reconstruction in each document-by-document decoding means, the tree structured being displayed in the current reconstructed state at a corresponding position;

wherein, in said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus, said document-by-document encoding means further includes:

descendant substitute display information storage means of storing descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means of said tree-structured document receiving apparatus for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

descendant substitute display information addition means of making the nodes stream generation means generate as said node stream a stream in which the descendant substitute display information read out from said descendant substitute display information storage means is added immediately after at least one of the node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node,

wherein, in each document-by-document decoding means of said tree-structured document receiving apparatus, said extraction means extracts the nodes or subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream restored by said receiving means according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction means adds a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when said extraction means extracts the descendant substitute display information; and

wherein said display means displays said descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority presentation means presents a node priority which is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the

priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

6. (cancelled)
7. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitted and receiving system according to Claim 5, wherein, in each document-by-document decoding means of said tree-structured document receiving apparatus, said reconstruction means immediately replaces the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when said extraction means extracts the descendant node while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.
8. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving system according to Claim 5, where the multiplexed stream generation means of said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus further has node priority setting means of determining the importance of an information portion to be presented from each node to the receiving-side user on the basis of a content of the node, an attribute of the node, a content of the document, an attribute of the document, the tree structure, or a user instruction, and setting a node priority on the basis of the determination, and

wherein, in the multiplexed stream generation means of said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus, said node priority

presentation means presents the node priority set by said node priority setting means.

9. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving system according to Claim 5, wherein said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus further has inter-document priority setting means of setting inter-document priorities on the basis of the contents of the documents, the attributes of the documents, the degrees of relation with a search word relating to a search request from the receiving-side user, a user instruction from a transmitting-side user, or a user instruction from the receiving-side user, and

wherein, in said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus, said inter-document priority presentation means presents the inner-document priorities set by said inter-document priority setting means.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A tree-structured document receiving apparatus which receives a signal formed by converting on the basis of the predetermined network protocol a node stream formed in such a manner that a node priority is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node, and a second

condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree; and nodes or subtrees are arranged in a sequence on the basis of the node priorities, said tree-structured document receiving apparatus having:

receiving means of restoring the node stream from the signal received by the predetermined network protocol;

extraction means of extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees from the node stream restored by said receiving means according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

reconstruction means of adding at least one of the nodes or the subtree in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction;

display means of displaying the tree-structured document in the current reconstructed state;

wherein, in the node stream restored by said receiving means, descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node is added immediately after at least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

said extraction means extracts at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream restored by said receiving means according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction means adds a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when said extracting means extracts the descendant substitute display information; and

wherein said display means displays said descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

14. (cancelled)
15. (previously presented) The tree-structured document receiving apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said reconstruction means immediately replaces the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when said extraction means extracts the descendant node while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.
16. (cancelled)
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)
20. (currently amended) A tree-structured document receiving apparatus which receives a signal formed by converting on the basis of the predetermined network protocol a multiplexed stream formed in such a manner that a node priority is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node, and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree; node streams are formed in each of which, with respect to one of a plurality of tree-structured documents to be presently transmitted, at least one of nodes or subtrees are arranged in a sequence on the basis of the node priorities related to the tree-structured document; and the multiplexed stream is formed by multiplexing the node streams relating to the tree-structured documents to be presently transmitted, sequences in which at least one of the nodes or subtrees of the tree-structured documents are arranged being placed in the multiplexed stream according to inter-document priorities set with respect to the tree-structured documents containing the nodes or subtrees, said tree-structured document receiving apparatus having:

receiving means of restoring the multiplexed stream from the signal received by the predetermined network protocol;

demultiplexing means of demultiplexing the multiplexed stream into the plurality of node streams contained in the multiplexed stream;

a plurality of document-by-document decoding means each assigned processing of one node stream in the plurality of node streams demultiplexed by said demultiplexing means, and each including extraction means and reconstruction means, said extraction means extracting the at least one of the nodes or subtrees from said processing-assigned node stream according to the sequence of arrangement in the nodes stream, said reconstruction means adding the node or subtree in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction;

display means of displaying the tree-structured document under reconstruction in each document-by-document decoding means, the tree structured being displayed in the current reconstructed state at a corresponding position;

wherein, in the node stream, descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node is added immediately after at least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

said extraction means in said document-by-document decoding means extracts at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction means in said document-by-document decoding means adds a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display

information when said extraction means extracts the descendant substitute display information; and

wherein said display means displays said descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

21. (cancelled)
22. (previously presented) The tree-structured document receiving apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said reconstruction means in said document-by-document decoding mean immediately replaces the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant code when said extraction means extracts the descendant node while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.
23. (currently amended) A tree-structured document transmitting and receiving method having a tree-structured document transmitting method and a tree-structured document receiving method, said tree-structured document transmitting method having:

a node stream generation step of generating a node stream in such a manner that a node priority is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while

satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node, and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree; a tree-structured document to be transmitted is read out from tree-structured document storage means; and at least one of the nodes or the subtrees of the tree-structured document are arranged in a sequence on the basis of said node priorities; and

a transmitting step of converting said node stream into a signal based on a predetermined network protocol and transmitting the signal, said tree-structured document receiving apparatus having:

a receiving step of restoring the node stream from the signal received by said predetermined network protocol;

an extraction step of extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees from the node stream restored by said receiving means according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

a reconstruction step of adding at least one of the extracted nodes or the subtree in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction; and

a display step of displaying on the display means the tree-structured document in the current reconstructed state;

wherein said tree-structured document transmitting apparatus further has:

a descendant substitute display information addition step of generating, in the node stream generation step, as said node stream, a node stream in which descendant substitute display information for substitute display on display means on the receiving side for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node is added immediately after at least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node,

wherein, in said tree-structured document receiving method, said extraction step comprises extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream restored in said receiving step according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction step comprises adding a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when the descendant substitute display information is extracted in said extraction step; and

wherein said display step comprises displaying on the display means the descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving method according to Claim 23, wherein, in said tree-structured document receiving method, said reconstruction step comprises immediately replacing the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when the descendant node is extracted in said extraction step while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.
26. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving method according to Claim 23, wherein said tree-structured document transmitting method as a node priority setting step of setting node priorities used in the node stream generation step, and
- wherein, in said node priority setting step, the importance of an information portion to be presented from each node to the receiving-side user is determined on the basis of a content of the node, an attribute of the node, a content of the document, an attribute of the document, the tree structure, a user instruction from a transmitting-side user, or a user instruction from the receiving-side user, and a node priority is set on the basis of the determination.
27. (currently amended) A tree-structured document transmitting and receiving method having a tree-structured document transmitting method and a tree-structured document receiving method, said tree-structured document transmitting method having:

a plurality of document-by-document encoding steps each assigned processing of one tree-structured document in a plurality of tree-structured documents to be transmitted, and each including a node stream generation substep comprising generating a node stream in such a manner that a node priority is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of the node, and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree; one assigned tree-structured document is read out from tree-structured document storage means; and at least one of the nodes or the subtrees of the tree-structured document are arranged in a sequence on the basis of said node priorities;

a multiplexed stream generation step of generating one multiplexed stream by multiplexing the node streams in said document-by-document encoding steps, inter-document priorities being set as transmission priorities with respect to the plurality of tree-structured documents to be transmitted, sequences in which at least one of the nodes or the subtrees of the tree-structured documents are arranged being placed in the multiplexed stream according to the inter-document priorities with respect to the tree-structured documents; and

a transmitting step of transmitting said multiplexed stream by converting said multiplexed stream on the basis of a predetermined network protocol, said tree-structured document receiving method having:

a receiving step of restoring the multiplexed stream from the signal received by the predetermined network protocol;

a demultiplexing step of demultiplexing the multiplexed stream into the plurality of node streams contained in the multiplexed stream;

a plurality of document-by-document decoding means each assigned processing of one node stream in the plurality of node streams demultiplexed by said demultiplexing step, and each including extraction substep and reconstruction substep, said extraction substep comprising extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees from said processing-assigned node stream according to the sequence of arrangement in the nodes stream, said reconstruction substep comprising adding at least one of the node or the subtree extracted in said extraction substep in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction; and

a display step of displaying the tree-structured document under reconstruction in each document-by-document decoding step, the tree structured being displayed in the current reconstructed state at a corresponding position of the display means;

wherein, in said tree-structured document transmitting method, said document-by-document encoding step further includes:

a descendant substitute display information addition substep of generating, in the node stream generation step, as said node stream, a node stream in which descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means on the receiving side for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node is added immediately after at

least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

wherein, in said tree-structured document receiving method, said extraction substep in each document-by-document decoding step comprises extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream restored by said receiving step according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction substep in each document-by-document decoding step of said tree-structured document receiving method comprises adding a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when said the descendant substitute display information is extracted in said extraction substep; and

wherein said display step comprises displaying on the display means the descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

28. (cancelled)

29. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitted and receiving method according to Claim 27, wherein, in each tree-structured document receiving method, said reconstruction substep in

each document-by-document decoding step comprises immediately replacing the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when the descendant node is extracted in said extraction substep while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.

30. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving method according to Claim 27, wherein the multiplexed stream generation step of said tree-structured document transmitting method includes a node priority setting substep of setting node priorities used in the node stream generation substep, and

wherein, in said node priority setting substep, the importance of an information portion to be presented from each node to the receiving-side user is determined on the basis of a content of the node, an attribute of the node, a content of the document, and attribute of the document, the tree structure, or a user instruction, and a node priority is set on the basis of the determination.

31. (previously presented) The tree-structured document transmitting and receiving method according to Claim 27, wherein said tree-structured document transmitting method further has an inter-document priority setting step of setting inter-document priorities on the basis of the contents of the documents, the attributes of the documents, the degrees of relation with a search word relating to a search request from the receiving-side user, a user instruction from a transmitting-side user, or a user instruction from the receiving-side user, and

wherein, in said tree-structured document transmitting method, said multiplexed stream generation step comprises restoring the multiplexed stream on the basis of the inter-document priorities set in said inter-document priority setting step.

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) A tree-structured document receiving method of receiving a signal formed by converting on the basis of the predetermined network protocol a node stream formed in such a manner that a node priority is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node, and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree; and at least one of the nodes or the subtrees are arranged in a sequence on the basis of the node priorities, said tree-structured document receiving method having:

a receiving step of restoring the node stream from the signal received by the predetermined network protocol;

an extraction step of extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees from the node stream restored in said receiving step according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

a reconstruction step of adding at least one of the extracted nodes or the subtree in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction;

a display step of displaying the tree-structured document in the current reconstructed state;

wherein, in the node stream restored in said receiving step, descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node is added immediately after at least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

said extraction step comprises extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream restored in said receiving step according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction step comprises adding a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when the descendant substitute display information is extracted in said extraction step; and

wherein said display step comprises displaying on the display means the descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a

branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

- 36. (cancelled)
- 37. (previously presented) The tree-structured document receiving method according to Claim 35, wherein said reconstruction step comprises immediately replacing the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when the descendant node is extracted in said extraction step while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.
- 38. (cancelled)
- 39. (cancelled)
- 40. (cancelled)
- 41. (cancelled)
- 42. (currently amended) A tree-structured document receiving method of receiving a signal formed by converting on the basis of the predetermined network protocol a multiplexed stream formed in such a manner that a node priority is set with respect to each of nodes of a tree-structured document on the basis of the importance of an information portion to be presented from the node to a receiving-side user while satisfying two conditions: a first condition that the node priority of the node is equal to or lower than that of a node which is an ancestor of that node,

and a second condition that if a plurality of nodes of the same priority exist, the nodes necessarily constitute one subtree; node streams are formed in each of which, with respect to one of a plurality of tree-structured documents to be presently transmitted, at least one of nodes or subtrees are arranged in a sequence on the basis of the node priorities related to the tree-structured document; and the multiplexed stream is formed by multiplexing the node streams relating to the tree-structured documents to be presently transmitted, sequences in which at least one of the nodes or the subtrees of the tree-structured documents are arranged being placed in the multiplexed stream according to inter-document priorities set with respect to the tree-structured documents containing at least one of the nodes or the subtrees, said tree-structured document receiving method having:

a receiving step of restoring the multiplexed stream from the signal received by the predetermined network protocol;

a demultiplexing step of demultiplexing the multiplexed stream into the plurality of node streams contained in the multiplexed stream;

a plurality of document-by-document decoding means each assigned processing of one node stream in the plurality of node streams demultiplexed in said demultiplexing step, and each including an extraction substep and a reconstruction substep, said extraction substep comprising extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees from said processing-assigned node stream according to the sequence of arrangement in the nodes stream, said reconstruction substep comprising adding the node or subtree extracted in said extraction substep in the extraction order to the tree-structured document under reconstruction;

a display step of displaying the tree-structured document under reconstruction in each document-by-document decoding step, the tree structured being displayed in the current reconstructed state at a corresponding position of the display means;

wherein, in the node stream, descendant substitute display information for substitute display on said display means for descendant nodes with respect to at least one of a node or a subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node is added immediately after at least one of the node or the subtree existing as a parent of the descendant node;

said extraction substep in said document-by-document decoding step comprises extracting at least one of the nodes or the subtrees and the descendant substitute display information from the node stream according to the sequence of arrangement in the node stream;

said reconstruction substep in said document-by-document decoding step comprises adding a substitute structure portion relating to the descendant substitute display information to the tree structure under reconstruction in place of the descendant node relating to the descendant substitute display information when the descendant substitute display information is extracted in said extraction substep; and

wherein said display step comprises displaying on the display means the descendant substitute display information, wherein said node priority is set based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point.

43. (cancelled)

44. (previously presented) The tree-structured document receiving method according to Claim 42, wherein said reconstruction substep in said document-by-document decoding step comprises immediately replacing the substitute tree-structured portion relating to the descendant substitute display information in the tree structure under reconstruction with the descendant node when the descendant node is extracted in said extraction substep while substitute display for the descendant node according to the descendant substitute display information is being performed.

45. (currently amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a sequence of portions of a document, said document including information defining document symbols and the location of said document symbols on a page;

receiving a prioritized portion of said transmitted sequence of portions of said document, wherein the priority of said prioritized portion is based on a characteristic of the appearance of said node when displayed, wherein said node priority is set such that the priority of nodes closer to a branching point in said tree structured document is higher than that of nodes more remote from said branching point;

displaying said received portions of said document; and

displaying substitute symbols in locations corresponding to portions of said document that have not been received.

46. (previously presented) A method according to claim 45 wherein said displaying comprises displaying a repeated character in said locations corresponding to portions of said document that have not been received.
47. (new) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said appearance comprises the presence of a background color, an itemized list, or an underline.